

of Europe,' the price of these splendid volumes places them beyond the reach of the majority of working naturalists.

The modest price at which this book is published makes it probable that a second edition will be called for. On the strength of this probability we venture to make a few critical remarks, which, if they be taken in the spirit in which they are offered, and acted upon accordingly, should add still further to the value of this work.

In the first place, then, we would have its pages brought thoroughly up to date. In the second, we feel that diagnoses both of families and genera should be given. Further, we must say that Mr. Dresser's book, as it at present stands, is too eclectic. He gives no reasons for the faith that is in him when rejecting the claims of certain forms to subspecific rank, and admits others in a somewhat dogmatic fashion difficult to understand.

The Fauna and Geography of the Maldive and Laccadive Archipelagoes.

Part I. Vol. II. pls. xxvi.—xxxiv. Cambridge: University Press.
15s. net.

THE first part of the second volume of this valuable work in every way sustains the high standard set by the earlier parts already noticed in these pages.

We would draw special attention to Prof. Hickson's report on the Aleyonaria of the Maldives, which will doubtless be read with keen interest by many who have hitherto paid little or no attention to this group. And for this reason, in the course of his report, Prof. Hickson shows, in the most luminous manner, how remarkable is the range of variation which a species may take in adaptation to an environment so variable as that of a reef.

"When I went out to Celebes," he says, "the first thing I did was to collect specimens of *Tubipora*, . . . [and] the conclusion I came to was that there is only one species, which varies on the one reef within limits almost as wide as the limits of all the hitherto described species of the genus." His remarks on the significance of the colours of *Spongodes* and *Solenocaulon*, for example, are of considerable interest, and may excite some surprise among those who insist on attaching a label explanatory of the meaning of conspicuous colours wherever they are met with.

There is much else in this report that we would fain note, but space forbids.

Sir Charles Eliot, in a paper on the Nudibranchiata, remarks that "It would seem as if the marine fauna of small islands which have never been connected with a continent is less in number and size than that of the mainland and its adjacent islands."

Mr. Laidlaw has a short paper on a Land-Planarian, which bears an additional interest since no Land-Planarian has hitherto been recorded from any coral island in the Indian Ocean.

Mr. Stanley Gardiner and Sir John Murray complete this part with an elaborate treatise on Lagoon deposits.